



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 6, 2008
For immediate release**

- 1. EPC to discuss underground storage tank rules at November 10 meeting**
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- 3. Watch amounts if applying manure products on land that will be planted to soybeans**
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EPC TO DISCUSS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RULES AT NOVEMBER 10 MEETING

**MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135 or
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URBANDALE – The Environmental Protection Commission will discuss an annual drinking water report and revisions to underground storage tank rules at its Nov. 10 meeting. The meeting has been rescheduled from the second Tuesday of the month because of Veteran's day.

The DNR will present Iowa's Drinking Water Capacity Development Program report to commissioners. The report explores the program that works to provide safe drinking water at an affordable cost to Iowans. The report presents the DNR's plan to focus on training water system managers to improve local management of drinking water supplies as well as future plans for improvements to the state's water systems. The report was also presented to Governor Culver in September.

At the meeting, the DNR will propose an amendment to underground storage tank rules regarding a risk evaluation process for public drinking water wells located outside the predicted area of contamination from tanks. The DNR will also ask commissioners to approve a funding agreement between the agency and the Iowa Comprehensive

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Board. The agreement would fund a study of petroleum releases from underground storage tanks and their potential to impact public drinking water wells.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation on open records, followed by official business starting at 10 a.m. Commissioners will meet at the Air Quality Building located at 7900 Hickman Rd in Urbandale. The meeting is open to the public, with public comments starting at 10:30 a.m. An appointment with CDI/Winnebago is scheduled for 1 p.m. to discuss an appeal of a proposed decision.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- CDI/Winnebago – Appeal of Proposed Decision
- Appeal of Declaratory Order - Filed by the S. Martinelli & Company
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapter 23, Air Quality Program Rules – Rescission of vacated NESHAPS
- Revisions to Recently Adopted Underground Storage Tank Rules Pertaining to Assessment of Risk to Public Water Supply Wells and Enter into a 28E Agreement with the Iowa UST Fund Board to Fund a Study
- Contract – USGS – Cooperative Monitoring FFY09
- Iowa's Drinking Water Capacity Development Program 2008 Report to the Governor
- Contract – Windsor Solutions, Inc. – Facility Application Rebuild
- Referrals to the Attorney General – Colleen Weber
- 28E Agreement Between the Iowa Underground Storage Tank Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for Funding the Department's Underground Storage Tank Section for Fiscal Year 2009
- Inter-governmental Agreement (28E) between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa Comprehensive Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund Board to Provide Funding for Assessment and Corrective Action at LUST Sites where a No Further Action Certificate has been Issued.
- Contract - Geologic Drilling
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
 - EPC Report to the Governor
 - EPC Legislative Proposals
- Items for Next Month's Meeting
 - Dec. 9 – Urbandale
 - Jan. 20 – Urbandale

Look for more information about the agenda items on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.gov.

The members of the commission are Henry Marquard, chair, Muscatine; Charlotte Hubbell, vice chair, Des Moines; Suzanne Morrow, secretary, Storm Lake; David Petty, Eldora; Susan Heathcote, Des Moines; Paul Johnson, Decorah, Marty Stimson, Cedar Rapids; and Shearon Elderkin, Cedar Rapids. The director of the DNR is Richard Leopold.

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SUCCESS LEADS TO CHANGES FOR LIVESTOCK WATER QUALITY LOAN PROGRAM

MEDIA CONTACTS: Patti Cale-Finnegan, DNR, (515) 725-0498, or Tony Toigo, IDALS, (515) 281-6148.

DES MOINES – A state revolving loan fund set aside in 2005 for water quality improvements to livestock facilities has grown in popularity as producers seek to improve their environmental performance.

The low interest loan program has been so successful that livestock producers have requested nearly all this year's \$12 million allocation less than three months into the 2009 fiscal year.

"We count this as a significant achievement," said Lyle Asell, the DNR's specialist on ag and the environment. "We set the program up three years ago based on discussions with livestock producers and it is gratifying to see how it has grown. The success of the program is largely due to producers being willing to address existing problems.

"Replacing open feedlots with roofed buildings is our highest priority," he said. "Putting the animals under a roof offers a long-term benefit to producers and the environment. Runoff from open lots is greatly reduced or eliminated, and producers benefit from improved animal performance and increased fertilizer value from the manure."

Other eligible practices include manure storage structures, solids settling basins and other ways to properly handle manure, according to Patti Cale-Finnegan, DNR State Revolving Fund coordinator.

The loan program is offered through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts with oversight by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and the DNR.

"Because of high demand for the loans, DNR and IDALS have prioritized funding requests, and will no longer fund loans for manure management equipment. Adopting this

policy leaves more loan money for practices that offer more benefits to water quality,” said Cale-Finnegan.

“Producers who had an equipment loan application submitted by Oct. 8, 2008, can still be approved for an equipment loan,” said Tony Toigo, program coordinator for IDALS.

DNR anticipates that additional funds may be set aside this year to continue funding manure storage structures.

The loans are available for livestock and poultry producers who are not required to have a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit. Generally these producers have less than 1,000 beef steers, 700 dairy cows, 2,500 finishing hogs, etc.

Loans are made through participating local lenders arranged through the program’s financial partner, the Iowa Finance Authority.

More information and applications are available on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s Web site at www.iowaagriculture.gov/FieldServices/waterQualityLoanFund.asp

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund also provides financial assistance for community wastewater treatment projects, soil erosion control practices, onsite septic systems, cleanup of polluted areas known as brownfields, and other water quality practices.

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WATCH AMOUNTS IF APPLYING MANURE PRODUCTS ON LAND THAT WILL BE PLANTED TO SOYBEANS

MEDIA CONTACT: Gene Tinker at (563) 927-2640 or gene.tinker@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – There is a limit on liquid manure or open lot effluent that can be land applied to fields that will be planted to soybeans next spring.

The limit is 100 pounds of nitrogen, or N, per acre and it applies to liquid manure or runoff containing manure from both open feedlots and animal confinements. The restriction applies only to liquid manure. If no liquid manure is applied, then commercial fertilizer application would not be limited.

“If they are using manure, producers who plan on planting soybeans next year should not apply more than 100 pounds of N, including manure and commercial fertilizer,” said Gene Tinker, the DNR animal feeding operations coordinator.

Tinker added that there has been some confusion about this new rule. “The limit applies only to fields where soybeans are planned as the next crop,” he said. “It does not apply to land where soybeans have just been harvested and corn is planned for next spring.”

The limit went into effect in May 2008.

Producers should also follow long-standing rules for land application. Generally, those include applying manure at agronomic rates and observing separation distances from environmentally sensitive areas. Those required to have a manure or nutrient management plan must follow it. And, commercial and confinement site manure applicators must be certified.

More information on manure application is available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/afo/landapp.html.

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APPLY NOW FOR THE GOVERNOR'S IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

MEDIA CONTACT: Emily Grover at (515) 242-5955

DES MOINES — Iowa businesses, organizations and citizens are invited to apply for the Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Awards. To download an application, go to www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html; applications are due Jan. 31, 2009.

These awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa, recognizing leadership and innovation in the protection of Iowa's water, land and air.

"As Governor, I am committed to protecting the land, lakes, rivers and streams that we all love," said Governor Culver. "To do so will require the hard work of all Iowans, including Iowa's business community. I am proud to recognize those businesses who share in our common commitment to the environment, and I encourage all those who are joining in our efforts to keep Iowa beautiful to apply for the Governor's Environmental Excellence award."

Awards will be given for overall Environmental Excellence, along with Special Project Awards in:

- Air Quality
- Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy
- Habitat Restoration
- Waste Management
- Water Quality
- Environmental Education
- Disaster Recovery

This year, two special project categories have been created. The first, for Environmental Education, will recognize a program that helps to engage and empower participants to be stewards of their local natural resources.

In addition, a Disaster Recovery category exclusively for 2008 will honor an organization that utilized beneficial environmental practices in recovering from one of this year's destructive weather-related events.

The awards program is coordinated by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

For more information and to download an application, go to www.iowadnr.gov/other/ee/index.html or contact Emily Grover at (515) 242-5955 or Emily.Grover@dnr.iowa.gov.